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THD Board Motions

October 19th

 Voted to confirm Executive Committee action to contribute \$100 toward the payment of \$2,100 fee to Dr. Peter Donohue, consulting economist, for The League of San Francisco Neighborhoods in connection with its opposition to the proposed Residential Conservation Controls.

Voted to confirm Executive Committee action to write a letter to the Police Department opposing the reissuance of an after-hours cabaret permit to "The Stone" on Broadway because of late night disturbances and rowdy behavior. The proprietor subsequently withdrew his application and the nightclub ceased operations.

Voted to confirm Executive Committee action to write a letter to the Supervisor Barbara Kaufman supporting the Cole Valley Improvement Association in its opposition to "spot zoning" granted by the City Planning Commission for McDonald's Restaurant at Haight and Stanyan Streets that would permit drive-through service in this already heavily congested area. Public hearings will be held early next year on any changes to the planning code for this neighborhood commercial district.

Voted to spend up to \$1,200 for a blanket mass mailing of THD membership applications to all residents of our area, approximately 4,500 homes.

Voted to support the Police Department's plan to move the Central Station from 777 Vallejo Street to the Bay Street location of the North

Where WAS My Semaphore

We apologize for the US Post Office and their late delivery of the last issue of the Semaphore. They say the computer lost it. Unlike the 40,000 Clinton inauguration invitations that went astray, we only lost four mailbags. The Semaphores were found weeks later after our continuing complaints and all distributed, they tell us. hope you finally got yours. Since you are reading this, time the government did better.

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without permission in writing.



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Continued on Page 17

As the new Embarcadero Roadway construction proceeds along the northeastern apron of Telegraph Hill we will become more acutely aware, both visually and environmentally, of the dimension of this massive civic undertaking. It is truly a positive sign of civic progress after a long and arduous public process that consumed numerous public hearings, lengthy official deliberations and extensive environmental review. The final element of this vital transportation corridor will be extension of the F-line streetcar through the Fisherman's Wharf area, which will be completed in about two years.

Perhaps by that time the "draft" Special Area Plan for Fisherman's Wharf, which has been languishing in the Project Coordinator Eva Lieberman's desk at the Department of City Planning for several months, will have been finalized. The Fisherman's Wharf Citizens Advisory Committee that formulated this plan held 44 meetings (plus various subcommittees sessions, such as the planning subgroup that met 97 times) since its inception in 1985. The DCP took over responsibility for the plan three and a half years ago when Mayor Art Agnos pulled the plug on the S.F. Redevelopment Agency's involvement. SFRA (now referred to officially as the "S.F. Development Agency") had expended more than \$650,000 analyzing various urban design and land use schemes, examining geotechnical elements and studying engineering feasibility for an underground garage. But no DCP funds have been allocated to ready the "draft" plan for formal adoption. Lieberman estimates that \$149,970 would be needed to do so, and then obtain commission and City Hall approvals and carry out a required environmental review.

A much newer citizens committee, the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board, is considering so-called "options" for land uses of the public trust properties under the jurisdiction of the Port of San Francisco, including the seawall lots and piers in the Fisherman's Wharf area. This board was created by the Port and the Supervisors in response to the passage of Prop. M which called for the determination of land use designations (excluding hotels on the piers) for waterfront development sites. Since the WPAB got started in early 1991, all of its considerable operating costs (staff time for preparation of agendas, minutes, compilation of voluminous reports, extensive printing and mailing costs) plus the salary of a full-time planner on loan from the Department of City Planning Department have been funded under the operating budget of the cash-strapped Port. Rather than completely duplicate or otherwise obfuscate the results of eight years' civic endeavor, maybe someone at City Hall can figure out how to pay for completion of the Special Area Plan conceived by the FWCAC, and have it incorporated intact into the WPAB agenda.

President's Letter

From Bob Tibbits



Continued on Page 7

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Angelo J. Boschetto

 Carole Migden describes herself as a progressive pragmatic. She is tenacious when fighting for something she believes in and immediately engaging in dealing with her constituents. Supervisor Migden spoke to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers at the August 30 membership meeting held at Fior d'Italia restaurant.

Migden was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1990 and serves on the critical Budget Committee. She established the Joint Task Force, which identified areas of needed changes in the way the City government handles its operations so that the budget deficit could be resolved without drastically cutting services.

Some of those changes have been painful: MUNI fares recently rose to \$1.00 and there are indications that they may be increased again. What this equates to in the experience of MUNI riders is that the same poor service on *fewer* over crowded graffiti-scrawled busses is pricier than ever. Migden advocates removing the Municipal Railway from the Public Utilities Commission and creating a MUNI Department which focuses exclusively on the needs of the MUNI, which are different than other public utilities.  MUNI is a labor-intensive crisis management type system that must be handled differently than the Water Department, also under the bailiwick of the PUC. Water management issues are more in the nature of long-range planning.

"MUNI is an embattled system; second to crime, the Supervisors hear more about MUNI than any other issue," says Migden. Her ballot measure, Prop. M, would create a MUNI Commission made up of five people, two of whom must be regular MUNI riders and two public transportation experts. "San Francisco is a transit-first city, and we must find ways to encourage people to take public transportation, make it convenient and more accessible to them," says Migden. She has  promised to continue her close monitoring of the MUNI system, and asks that people who observe safety violations or continued break-downs in service report them to her office.

Before entering the political arena, Migden was a health care professional. She served as a State Health Commissioner until her election to the Board of Supervisors. She feels that her public service in the health care arena has uniquely prepared her for her broader role in City government. As a Supervisor, Migden has been an advocate for public health and social services, and has authored legislation to increase City revenues specifically targeted to support those services. "When employers don't give their people health care, it becomes the burden of the taxpayer," Migden says. She is active in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts,

Continued on Page 8

Supervisor Carole Migden at the THD

by Diana Gaynor



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When pressed by the Mayor, for example, there was no problem finding planning staff and budget allocations earlier this year to prepare an extensive review of potential alternatives to CalTrans' \$90 million proposal to duplicate the abominable concrete tangle of ramps connecting the Bay Bridge to the central waterfront. DCP, working closely with other affected City departments, created a persuasive and carefully documented argument opposing the as-it-was-in-the-beginning approach taken by CalTrans. This exceptional effort culminated last September with the Supervisors putting CalTrans "on hold" until completion of an environmental study of cheaper and faster ways to connect City streets and the bridge. Widely respected Rebecca Kohlstrand directed the four-month research effort and coordinated the fast track approval process through the maze of City commissions. On November 5th Chief Planner Kohlstrand was honored for her extraordinary job performance as a recipient of a well-deserved 1993 Public Managerial Excellence Award from the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee.

The City Planning Commission continues to wrestle with the latest rendition of the Residential Conservation Controls (over 300 pages) that originally got started in 1989 and were based on 1980 census data. A Task Force from The League of San Francisco Neighborhoods has launched a set of simplified alternative measures (less than a dozen pages). The Task Force's approach to encouraging the maintenance of affordable family housing in the City is to amend rather than virtually replace the 1978 code in its entirety.

In October the Task Force presented our professional economic consultant as an expert witness. His analysis, using 1990 census information as well as planning department records, conclusively documented the loss of 5,000 single-family homes and corollary increase of the cost of family housingsince 1980. Later the Task Force met with Mayor Jordan who agreed to respond in writing to the Task Force's concerns and called for the City Planning Commission to continue receiving public comment on this important matter until Thursday, December 9th. If the commission adopts the RCCs and Supervisors and the Mayor sign off, there remains the possibility of a law suit challenging the validity of these new controls, because environment impacts have not been properly considered.

All other things properly considered, this is the season for taking things into account. Consider the impact on your social environment of our annual Christmas Party at Julius' Castle on Sunday, December 12th. No other neighborhood organization in San Francisco enjoys the free hospitality of one of the finest restaurants in the City with our friends and neighbors over a lavish buffet and Holiday good cheer. Once again, owner Jeffrey Pollack will be host to our grandest party of the year. Remember to thank Jeff personally for taking us all in account again this Christmas.

President's Letter

Continued from page 3



Supervisor Carole Migden...

Continued from Page 5

and advocates greater City spending and increased funding for prevention and care.

The current budget set four million dollars for branch libraries and the needs of Parks & Rec, including repair and renovation of the North Beach pool, are being addressed.

The City share of the sales tax would continue to be about 25 cents per \$100 of purchases and would equal increased revenues of about \$45 million per year. "The \$2.7 billion budget in San Francisco is a cash budget," Migden says, and deficit financing is disallowed by the City Charter. We are in a crisis management mode, and we have to find a way to solve budgetary problems now." Migden calls the sales tax extension a short-term solution to keep the City functioning during hard times.

According to Migden, the real challenges to local municipalities are long-range plans to stabilize government, to see what the public is willing to pay for, and not just go after taxation. She asks her constituents to "...speak out, embolden us to come up with solutions to problems. It is difficult to make changes, and there is a need for charter revisions. The Board of Supervisors should put its own stamp on the budget because of the lack of direction from the Mayor's office."

Supervisor Migden pointed out that when there are attention grabbing headlines about MUNI cutbacks or health care shortfalls, the money for those kinds of things comes out of the City's general fund, precious unallocated money. When the Governor wants to take 20% of this money for the State budget, it creates a fiscal nightmare for the City. "This is not a time of easy economic growth," she says, "so the conflicting economic needs of the City and the State have to be factored into the solutions we (the Supervisors) come up with."

"The City needs to beef up and fortify other sources of revenue," Migden says. If revenues are increased from real estate transfer taxes and property tax assessments, parking fees and fines (new State legislation takes parking fines out of the municipal courts and enforces collection via the DMV), we wouldn't have to fight about controversial issues like a hotel tax.

Migden ended her presentation by saying "Kevin (Shelley) and I have to take practical considerations and political perspectives and decide what can be done to get through these hard times, to do okay. We need to work with various departments, such as the Port of San Francisco, and find ways of maintaining levels of service that we all can live with."

During the question and answer session that followed her presentation, Supervisor Migden yielded the podium to Supervisor Kevin Shelley who described his Prop. K in response to a number of questions from the floor. Proposition K would allow the creation of an Ethics Commission which would take ethical decisions away from politicians, who tend to politicize ethics issues to meet their ends, and place them in

the hands of a neutral commission. It is designed to resolve conflicts between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor and identify standards of conduct for public officials. Prop. K would place the "whistle blower" function within the ethics commission, making waste and inefficiency in City government an ethical violation. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce approves Prop. K, and there is no fiscal impact. "Says Supervisor Shelley, "Proposition K does not create new bureaucracy, it punishes wrong doing, promotes right-doing and saves the City money."

At one point, THD President Bob Tibbits felt compelled to step in and protest the increasingly hectoring tone of some questions. However, Supervisor Migden handled herself well, answering the questions to the best of her ability and promising to follow up on issues which fall outside her area of expertise.

Supervisor Migden's telephone number at City Hall is 554-4033, and Supervisor Shelley can be contacted at 554-4005.

While the holiday spirit is still with you, mark April 30, 1994 on your calendar. That's when Christmas in April volunteers will clean, paint and build homes and community buildings in the Bayview, Mission, Oceanview-Merced-Ingleside, and Bernal Heights neighborhoods.

Last year, volunteers repaired and renovated 29 homes and seven nonprofit agencies. Two years ago, a dozen or so THDers patched, painted and repaired a home in Bernal Heights--a tough but very rewarding job.

To volunteer for a work crew, call 905-1611.

Our local Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) is growing.

The goal of N.E.R.T. training is to help the citizens of San Francisco be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours in the event of a major disaster.

The 5-week program (one 3-hour class per week) is taught by the San Francisco Fire Department, and concludes with a "hands-on" practice session at the San Francisco Fire College.

To clarify a misunderstanding that was aired in the last Semaphore: You *are* required to sign a form which absolves the City and the Fire Department of responsibility for injuries received in the course of the training. You *may* sign the State of California's Disaster Service Worker Registration and Loyalty Oath (the same loyalty oath civil servants must sign), but can take the course without signing. In any case trainees are covered by *Good Samaritan* laws, but in the event of a declared disaster, those who have signed the form receive additional protection of disaster service worker laws and are eligible for state disability insurance if injured..

Cost of the course is \$25. If you're interested in enrolling, call June Fraps, 392-1187.

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In early fall an alert THDer noticed some unusual construction activity on a building in his neighborhood. What appeared to be a prefabricated house had been literally planted on the roof of the two-story building at the southeast corner of Lombard and Powell Street. Presumably, plumbing and electricity had been installed to make it livable.

By the time Building Inspector Sullivan (558-6096) visited the site all the construction activity had ceased, so the situation was treated as a possible illegal occupancy. Central Permit Bureau Inspector Serrano(558-6213) said records show the most recent permit as 1989 installation of smoke detectors in Units A, B and C. The only other permit in the file was issued to Henry F. Castagnino for foundation work in 1928. This building has undergone extensive exterior alteration over the past 65 years.

This property, recorded as 1968 Powell/583 Lombard, lies in an RM-2 zoning district, i.e. mixed commercial and residential use, low density. R&M Market occupies the first level. The RM-2 regulations permit one dwelling unit for each 800 square feet of lot area. Its "grandfathered" legal use is for three dwelling units, but no additional units would be permitted without a zoning vari-

ance. Another variance would also be required for lack of any off-street parking.

The present owners Gan and Sue Wong were issued a Notice of Violation calling for (a) filing of a building permit, (b) reverting to the original use or (c) taking action to legalize the addition. If no response to the notice is received within 30 days, Serrano said, the case will be turned over to the enforcement unit, presumably to have the third story addition removed.

Affordable housing is fast becoming a scarce commodity on Telegraph Hill, but this does not solve the problem.

For Rent 1 BR, BAY VU

by Bob Tibbits



Crime Statistics

by Pat Lorentzen

TYPE	AUG.-OCT.	
	1992	1993
Homocide	0	1
Rape	3	0
Robbery	17	14
Assault	23	23
Burglary	36	22
Theft	70	94
Auto	26	38
Other	145	137
	%Change	
TOTAL	320	329 2.81%
TOTAL MAJOR*	175	191 9.14%

*Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Grand/Petty Theft, Auto Theft, Purse Snatch

Park On Stockton If You Dare

by Gerald Hurtado

Parking on Stockton?

When the Italian American Athletic Club and the Post Office mutually applied for a yellow zone and a timed white Passenger Zone in front of their respective sites, people in the neighborhood thought that Moose's restaurant was the applicant. They felt Moose's had already taken three spaces for its white Passenger Zone. This caused letters and telephone calls to the Department of Traffic.

The November 16th Parking and Traffic Commission meeting hopefully straightened this out with a parking compromise.

The Post Office is to have a yellow Loading Zone from 9AM to 1PM in front so they can load and unload their trucks. And the Italian Athletic Club will have a white Passenger Zone in front, but it will only be operative when they are actually catering an event such as a wedding or dinner celebration, and they will have to post it. At all other times the available parking spaces in both the yellow and the white zones will be metered for public parking. THD'er Joan Woods attended the meeting and indicated that she felt the compromise seemed reasonable.

Garage "Out of Proportion" to the Neighborhood

The Civic Design Review Committee of the Arts Commission unanimously rejected the conceptual design for the 65-foot high garage proposed across from Central Police Station by the Department of Parking and Traffic at Vallejo Street and Churchill Alley.

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers (THD) have been following this proposed garage project closely because the City maintains that it is not feasible to build a new garage unless they are allowed to build a structure about twice as high as the existing garage, 25 to 35 feet over the legal height limit. The North Beach area has a 40-foot height limit on new structures to preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Committee Chairman John Lund Kriken, FAIA, felt the mass of the project was totally out of proportion with the surrounding buildings and the exterior treatment was incompatible with the character of the street.

The Department must now decide whether to submit a new garage proposal, presumably no more than 40 feet high, that will pass muster at design review, before going forward with an application to the Department of City Planning for a Conditional Use Permit. This would appear to obviate any need for a "spot" zoning approval (to build higher) in the 40-foot height limit North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District.

The present North Beach Garage was built in 1920, says proprietor Ray Baroni. Since last July, Baroni has been operating on a month-to-

month lease from the City which now owns the property. This is the site of the proposed new North Beach Garage the City intends to build.

THD'ers at Work

Peter Dwares has written to Mary Burns, General Manager of Park and Recreation and to Jack Immendorf, President of the Recreation and Park Commission, to push an alternative to the diesel busses that service Coit Tower. He recommends a battery operated 22 passenger electric van such as U.C. campus has recently put in place.

In a letter to Supervisor Sue Bierman, Tom Havey wrote: "For some time I have noticed what I consider to be a dangerous condition due to the steep grade of the two-way, but narrow, portion of Romolo Street from Vallejo to Fresno. It is my belief that it is just a matter of time before there will be a head-on collision between a car traveling down the street and one already near the top of the street at Vallejo. In fact, already I have once experienced a minor incident; but fortunately no damage was done."

Havey's letter, began a process that ultimately resulted in the Department of Parking and Traffic to recommend this section of street for one-way designation.

Robert Kitzler wrote to City the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) about the loss of two parking spaces on Pfeiffer Street.

Jack Early, in a letter to DPT, questions why *Video Secrets*, a porno shop, rates a white Passenger Zone equal to three parking spaces on Bay Street.

Bond Yee, Traffic Engineer, DPT, indicated that DPT would send someone out to evaluate both situations.

We Need Your Help.

You can make a difference. We need people who have some free time in the day time to represent THD at City and community meetings on parking and traffic. Please join this committee even if you just want to look after the parking problems associated with your particular street. We welcome your input.

You Are Invited.


Anthony Azzolini, proprietor of Caffè Roma Coffee Roasting Company, 526 Columbus Ave., will let us use his shop for our next meeting on Saturday, January 15, 1994 at 11:00AM. We will invite someone from the Department of Parking & Traffic to speak to us. Please plan to attend this one hour meeting.

Parking & Traffic Co-Chair, Nancy Katz, who has been on leave sends her regards and hopes to be at the January 15th meeting.

**Mark
January 15th
Meeting
In Your
Calendar**

Avrum Rubenstein Contemporary Archaeology


by Helen von Ammon



Everytime I wore that Stetson, some one asked, "Yew from TEXus?" Shoot, I've only been in Texas two or three times. Trying not to look sheepish, I'd say, "No, I'm from San Francisco." I felt like a fraud.

My daily squirrel track takes me past the Shlock Shop, 1416 Grant, where the windows have not been changed, Hoovered or dusted for 25 years. Displayed in the windows is a stupefying collection of hats. A Stetson with 20X printed on the inside hatband indicates finest quality 100% beaver felt. I considered offering my handsome Western hat to this assemblage. Naaaa. I couldn't bear the thought that my cherished Stetson would molder in this homeostasis Still, it takeschutzpah to have windows that grungey. I checked it out.

Slowly my eyes adjusted to the dimly lighted interior. I could see that the owner was seriously into hats. Among myriad head coverings which hang from the ceiling are a Spanish motorcycle policeman's helmet, bull fighter's little karakul beanie, a helmet with ear flaps which protected a wartime tank soldier, riveter helmet worn while building Golden Gate Bridge. One wall displays contemporary hats including dapper Borsalinos.



Glass cases in the middle and around the small room contain treasures for the most imaginative collector. How about a 150 year old fruitwood and pewter snuff box from France; hard to find 1940's fountain pens which work; unusual knives; metal rimmed eye glasses -- the ear pieces wind around even the biggest ears; a gold lorgnette guaranteed to defrost the surliest maitre d'. As for the Louis XIV book of ordinances on display, don't even ask, not for sale. Avrum Rubenstein thinks of his shop as contemporary archeology, a term which might also apply to him.

Schlock is a Yiddish word. In American English it means junk or sleazy merchandise. Facetiously, Rubenstein misspelled "schlock." sure that no one would notice. He was wrong. Every communication he receives spells it correctly.

Where does Avrum find all this schlock for the Shlock Shop? Some merchandise is purchased from professional "finders." Occasionally he goes to flea markets. His earliest hat source was St. Vincent de Paul's thrift shop where he scooped up a travel case containing derbies and top hats. One of the top hats was collapsible, the other was made of beaver felt. These had been in storage since 1921, with a Railway Express routing slip addressed to Washington, D.C. Avrum surmises that the hats beinged to a politician enroute to Harding's inauguration.

Without a trace of wistfulness, Avrum says that the Shlock Shop is not an income source, but pays its way.

Though born in Eugene, Oregon, for more than three-quarters of a century Avrum has lived in San Francisco. As a young man, he painted in the basement of his parents' home. Then he learned about life classes *with* nude, nubile female models. Hormones surging, eagerly he signed up.

Now 50 years later, the artist paints more than ever and his paintings encompass far more than female figures. He works with acrylics on Rives paper; his light source is ordinary light bulbs. Avrum works over a painting until it's just as he envisions. The next day he puts it in The Scene's sunlit window, next door to the Shlock Shop.

Miraculously, colors he had not seen while painting are revealed by Grant Avenue's sunlight.

Avrum paints a single theme for a year - horses, historical portraits, jazz musicians, baseball pitchers, football players. When inspiration for subjects lagged he once painted a self-portrait and it became the new theme. Seeing the many Avrim Rubenstein portraits presently in The Scene Gallery, viewers are perplexed. Either the artist is a supreme egotist, lacks models or both. Not so. In each portrait Avruim selects a different hat to wear from his huge collection. In one painting he wears a postman's hat. An astute observer will recognize, in the background, Avrum's rendition of the Van Gogh portrait of his friend, Joseph Roulin, Postman, painted at Arlies in 1888.

As with most artists, Avrum could not make a living from painting. He was also a potter and subsidized The Scene by showing his pottery in the gallery. His contemporaries from the 40's include Matt Barnes, Emmylou Packard, Louis Siegfried. Avrum especially enjoys Hassel Smith's early "exquisite little jewels." Some of them were painted in Smith's Grant Avenue apartment and made him famous. With nostalgic fondness, Avrum misses the charming Rotunda Gallery in the former City of Paris store, and its manager and art patron, Beatrice Judd Ryan.

Part of Avrum's daily routine is a six mile bike ride. Distinguished by his mustache and omnipresent hat maybe you've seen him push off. Tiny rear view mirror attached to his helmet, occasionally he pedals to Sausalito but usually it's to the Marina and back.

As for my Stetson, I gave it to a Mexican gardener who proudly wears it on only state occatons. Wear it in good health, amigo. but please keep it brushed and loohin' good. Beavers don't make hats any more.



Self-portrait



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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Crime Prevention

Pat Lorentzen 781-0456

Organizes S.A.F.E. neighborhood watch groups and works with Police Department on local crime problems. Participates in Police Community Relations Committee.

Garfield School/Francisco Middle School Liaison

Tricia Brown 433-1827

Coordinates volunteers to assist in classrooms and with school projects.

Hill's Angels

Mia Morrill 982-4850

Getting families together for fun with their children and to work on projects to improve our environment on Telegraph Hill.

Housing

Wells Whitney 398-5077

Preparing a study of housing issues to assist Board in the formulation of policy position on the hill's housing stock.

Landmarks and History

Joe Luttrell 255-6400

Conducts walking tours that highlight Telegraph Hill's colorful past and historic buildings.

Library

Lea Ann Garrison 693-0662

Works with North Beach Branch Library (Gardiner Haskell, Librarian) and represents THD on neighborhood council.

Neighborhood Improvement

Dawne Bernhardt 399-1004 Peter Manolakos 399-9720

Deals with graffiti, litter and illegal dumping on the Hill; works with Clean City Coalition on periodic neighborhood sweep-ups.

N.E.R.T.

Volunteer Needed

Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

Neighborhood Liaison

Sue Cauthen 391-0737

Represents THD on League of Neighborhoods.

Parking and Transportation

Gerry Hurtado 788-7723

Deals with chronic traffic and parking problems and monitors MUNI service.

Parks and Trees

Anthony Imamura 391-3767

Oversees "greening of the Hill" to enlist neighbors in tree planting projects, working with Friends of the Urban Forest.

Presidio/GGNRA

Jordan Rosenberg 788-5338

Monitors and participates in planning for transfer of Presidio to Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Planning and Zoning

Jim Valenti 398-0076

Assists neighbors with zoning issues and Discretionary Reviews; represents THD positions before Planning Commission and works with developers and the City to protect neighborhood character.

Waterfront/Embarcadero

Rod Freebairn-Smith Bob Tibbits 986-2622 398-4094

Monitors DPW activities along the Embarcadero roadway and participates in Fisherman's Wharf citizen advisory group; also tracks Port Commission hearings.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget

Rita Buchfinck 398-0432

As prescribed in By-Laws for Treasurer.

Membership

Bob Ilse 291-0420

As prescribed in By-Laws for Financial Secretary.

Program

Jarilyn Cerruti 421-3820

Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions; organizes annual picnic.

Semaphore

Clyde Steiner 398-8093

As prescribed in By-Laws for Editor of the Semaphore.

THD welcomes John Willett, new Captain at Central Station. He previously served as Captain of the Tactical Unit of the Special Investigations Bureau. Our thanks and good wishes to Captain Joaquin Santos, who has been reassigned to head up the Mission District station, a post he has long desired.

Again this year during the holiday season, there will be additional vigilance by the SFPD in the downtown shopping area. However, each of us should be alert at all times - be aware and street-smart.

The next Central Station Police Community Relations evening meeting will be on January 20, 1994, at 7:30 pm. If you wish to be put on the mailing list to receive notices of these meetings, please call me at 781-0456.

Happy, safe holidays!

Point Sewage Plant where there is considerable surplus public space that could be adaptively renovated to double the size of the present station using funds already available from a \$28 million bond issue passed by the voters six years ago.

Voted to join neighboring property owners to appeal the merging of three lots and demolition of four buildings containing nine dwelling units at 361-377 Kearny Street and 115 Telegraph Hill Boulevard to be replaced with a new six unit luxury apartment building; and conversion of an existing four-unit building at 1440-1446 Kearny Street into two luxury condominiums. Motion also opposed the Conditional Use application to allow seven units on a parcel zoned for a three family house and the granting of a variance to permit expansion of a nonconforming structure. .

November 9th

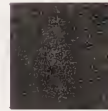
Voted that henceforth it shall be the policy of the Board of Directors to support local services, most specifically printers, as long as their cost are within 25% of the lowest bid from a non-local service.

Voted to contribute \$50 to cleaning up graffiti on buildings in Jasper and Brannan Alleys that will be conducted by The North Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Voted to support the intent of the City Ordinance 442-86 that created the Telegraph Hill Historic District (roughly the area east of Montgomery Street to Sansome Street between Green and Greenwich Street) and not to approve the proposed alteration to an historic building at 224 Filbert Street.

Crime Notes

by Pat Lorentzen



Motions...

Continued from Page 2

Helen von Ammon, Designer & Artist

by Marguerite Bales

It was the color of moonlight and did not weigh much more, but the sweater I held was knitted from five different fibers including one of the world's rarest, qiviut from the undercoat of the Arctic Musk Ox.

Helen Von Ammon's studio on San Antonio Place was filled with such treasures, each of them an original design knitted from hand spun fibers. A long time resident of North Beach, Helen was originally a successful painter. She had shows and exhibitions in many European cities, her light sun-splashed canvases were particular favorites with tourists from the middle east. But the first time she saw another woman spin fluffy piles of fur and fiber into yarn, Helen was captivated and turned her artistic talents into the textile field. "Designing something, spinning the fibers myself and knitting it into something original is a more complete art for me. Painting was just working out my ideas on a one dimensional surface, but I find deep pleasure and satisfaction in working with different textures, different fibers, and creating a piece of wearable art from completely natural materials."

Looking about at the tremendously varied sweaters, wraps and jackets created by Helen, I asked her how she designed her work, what inspired her. "In Japan I studied Japanese art forms, and this comes out in many of my designs, but that is the underlying form. My medium is fiber. The textures and colors of the fibers themselves, are all part of the creative process and help me design each individual piece. Sometimes just the natural fibers, (angora, qiviut, llama, silk) and the colors found in nature are all I need. Other times, I use commercial yarns with their bright, bold colors to enhance the exotic yarns and to add another texture and feel to the finished garment. Most of my designs are classic and timeless. I want my garments to make the wearer feel good, be radiant, and confident that she is wearing a unique piece of art. My aim is to see how different, how tactile, how beautiful, how colorful or sometimes, how crazy, I can be."

She showed me incredibly multi-textured and colored long vests; a sassy, bright and confident evening wrap, beautifully draped, shiny red with gold and trimmed in maribou; a casual sweater with the dark blues, purples and silver of the winter sky; exquisitely elegant evening sweaters and beautifully casual sweaters and vests - all of them original and unique.

The range of types, pieces and design were almost staggering, I loved the feel of these sweaters, jackets and coats. They were wonderful to the touch and gracefully easy on the body. I asked Helen about the individual fibers and the combinations she works with. "I can use almost everything. Normally, I spin angora, qiviut, and llama, but at times I have also made use of the fur from bison, dog, and arctic wolves. I work with wool, silk, cashmere, and when I want brightness and boldness, I use rayon yarn."

She pulled out a gossamer silver sweater, light as a feather. "Do you see that silver fiber coming down the front at irregular intervals? That was a piece of twine used to wrap packages. As each and every design is different I use different and often unusual combinations."

Helen is a passionate conservationist. Much of the fur she uses to create her yarns is personally gathered by her literally off the animal's back. For the last six years she has gone to Alaska as a volunteer especially concerned with the survival of the Arctic Musk Ox. "Ninety years ago these magnificent animals were extinct in Alaska, but now through special laws and wildlife preserves they are again part of the environment. Qiviut, the fur from the undercoat of this animal, is the rarest in the world. I buy two pounds at \$150.00/a pound, which I personally have combed out while grooming them during my annual stay."

Helen has traveled from Alaska to Arizona giving lectures on the musk ox, on its habitat and the efforts of bringing it back from extinction. She also gives workshops on creative spinning and knitting techniques, how to combine handspun and commercial yarns and seminars on the preparation and use of the rare and unique qiviut.

She has carried her ecological concerns and creative talents to both television and radio and she is a published author in both the United States and Great Britain. When I asked her how she finds time to market her wonderful designs, she said: "At one time Helga Howie on Maiden Lane bought almost everything I could make. But since her store closed I sell from my studio, I loathe self promotion and I find it very difficult to push myself into the commercial market. Of course, my articles in newspapers and magazines generate customers, but I especially like helping someone find one of my designs that is perfect for that person. As a result I have many repeat customers who tell others about my designs. I love the opportunity to personalize my sales."

Most of Helen's original designs are in the \$150/\$250 range and all of them are unique. Because she is often out of the City teaching or giving workshops it is absolutely necessary to call for an appointment to see her creations. A creative and eclectic person, multi-talented and personally involved she is indeed a renaissance woman.

Helen's phone number is (415) 397-7799.



Presidio Developments

by Jordan Rosenberg,
Presidio Committee



At the end of October the Golden Gate National Recreation Area of the National Park Service revealed its plan for developing the Presidio. You may contact the GGNRA at Fort Mason to obtain a copy of the 1000 page plan or of the abbreviated Profile of the plan.

A variety of hearings and informal meetings are scheduled for November and December. They will be held at a variety of locations with the intention of encouraging your attendance. You can learn more and you can make comments to GGNRA at these meetings. Call 415-556-3111 for details.

Here are some highlights of the plan. It is proposed to cost \$615 million dollars (!) to do the conversion the National Park Service has in mind, plus about \$45 million a year for operations. Actual costs may exceed estimates.

Crissy Field is to be restored to wetlands. Six hundred housing units above Baker Beach will be removed. Letterman General Hospital will be demolished as will about half of the USPHS hospital at 15th and Lake for reasons of seismic safety. Some roads will be turned into bike paths. Lobos and El Polin Creeks will be restored. A ferry will operate from the Ferry Building to Fisherman's Wharf, Ft. Mason, and the Presidio. Acres of non-native trees will be removed. Doyle Drive and the Golden Gate Bridge Plaza will be redone. The movie theater, fast food restaurants, and bowling alley will stay. So will the golf course.

Letterman Army Institute for Research (not the hospital) will be rented to UCSF if a deal can be worked out. However, some believe the Institute should be split off from the park by Congress and UCSF can cut a separate deal with another agency. After all, why should the GGNRA be involved in this?

The GGNRA wants a park for "making the world a better place." Accordingly, they plan for a study and conference center, international events, and permanent organizations as well as staff housing for these entities. The Gorbachev Institute is the best known of these. A lot of social, environmental, and political activity will be supported. Furthermore, the GGNRA has visions of a world class tourist destination with millions of visitors. Of the \$615 million, the plan anticipates getting \$360 million from tenants. This is a sizeable real estate development requiring expertise in building, financing, and leasing. Expect a lot of coming and going.

Naturally, the National Park Service will move its headquarters from Ft. Mason to the Presidio. Wouldn't you?

Next page please

There has been some resistance in Congress and the plan may not materialize or may be modified. The main objection is to the cost which is more than that of all other national parks combined. There is also some question about the appropriateness of the proposal for what is, after all, supposed to be a park. To enlist support the GGNRA is promising tax money to the city and jobs to its citizens. The details are not yet clear.

What is clear is that this project will affect every San Franciscan profoundly. There will be costs and impact on quality of life. Traffic, fire, and police services are obvious matters of concern. Find out more by contacting GGNRA. If there is enough interest among THD members we can invite proponents and opponents to an evening presentation.

There continue to be many projects brought to the attention of the THD by concerned neighbors. During the past three months, several units have been lost and others are threatened as developers try to squeeze each dime out of the parcels located on our hill.


The provisions of the Telegraph Hill Historic District have been repeatedly challenged by insensitive proposals for additions and remodels. Throughout the neighborhood, building scale and densities are increasing as new projects ignore the existing context. The THD Board of Directors have done their best to stop this escalation, but there have been many setbacks.

The countless hours of dedication logged by members of our organization, over the past forty years, have had an impact. Recently, as an offshoot of the interior block parcels study, the Department of City Planning has asked the THD to write neighborhood design guidelines to be incorporated into the zoning rules for our district and/or apply for designation as a special use district via the Board of Supervisors. The ultimate goal in either case is to establish the criteria for development on the hill and a neighborhood design review board to apply the standards as necessary.

Where this effort may lead is uncertain right now; however, Pedro Arsi of the Planning Department has made it clear that we begin with a meticulous block-by-block survey of existing conditions.

This is where we need help. We have established a core committee to begin the process, but with approximately forty-five blocks within our boundaries, we need help.

Maybe you would like to survey your block? For a minimal time and energy commitment, you will get to know your neighborhood a little better and help protect the qualities you enjoy. I'm hoping to get about twenty people to assist with the survey, scheduled to begin early in 1994. Please call me at 398-0076



Planning & Zoning Survey

by Jim Valenti



Remaking The Island

by Sue Cauthen

The Navy's departure from Treasure Island in 1997 presents the Bay Area with a planning challenge. It offers an opportunity to create a new San Francisco neighborhood. Or a public recreational or cultural center. Or Disneyland North. And it poses rehabilitation and topographical problems of some magnitude.

So said a conference of urban planners at an American Institute of Architects workshop at the naval base in The conclave was cosponsored by the University of California's Pacific Rim Center for Urban Development.

Captain Al Wynn, who heads the Navy's regional base closure effort, told the audience of high powered city planners to act quickly to determine the future of the 532-acre facility, which includes Yerba Buena Island. "Hamilton Field is the way not to do it," he said, referring to the years-long debate over development of that former military base, while buildings and infrastructure deteriorate.

The Navy has till 1995 to come up with a reuse plan and a departure schedule. The Coast Guard wants to remain on Yerba Buena, where it has permanent rights to some housing and a 30-acre station. But nothing is definite and the economic feasibility of this plan is uncertain. Meanwhile, both military units are preparing master plans, and there is no consensus on whether Yerba Buena will be part of the package.

At this point there are several alternatives for Treasure Island: federal reuse, acquisition by the state, transfer to San Francisco, or sale to a developer. Community ideas for reuse range from a ballpark to housing for the homeless.

Mayor Jordan has set up a committee to study city takeover as the island is within city limits and was under San Francisco's control before it became a naval station. The Mayor has also established an Office of Base Conversion in the Redevelopment Agency. Supervisor Shelley's Base Closure Committee will also likely scrutinize Treasure Island planning in much the same way it is now looking at Hunter's Point and the Presidio.

Another issue is which San Francisco agency will assume jurisdiction over Treasure Island during the planning process: the redevelopment agency or the planning department. Members of City Hall's TI task force include planning director Lu Blajei, redevelopment head Ed Helfeld, chief of staff Jim Lazarus, economic development boss Kent Sims and Michael Yaki, who runs Representative Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco office.

According to press reports, federal law allows San Francisco to have the land for \$1 if it uses it for a public purpose. Otherwise the city would have to pay fair market price.

Reuse of Treasure Island poses problems similar to those at the Presidio and other former military bases that are transferring to civilian control: decaying buildings and infrastructure, transportation access and

toxic cleanup. But there are vast possibilities for creative utilization of the city-within-a-city on Treasure Island and the 104 units of upscale housing on Yerba Buena.

Together there are 1011 housing units, split between office and enlisted staff's homes and apartments. There is also a new medical clinic, a large grocery store, a department store, the biggest elementary school in the San Francisco school district, and a small boat harbor.

Other structures include a new firefighting training center, and a contingent of historic buildings.

About 5000 people live on the base and around 2400 work there. Approximately 75% of this "daytime population" commutes.

Traffic is a key issue for future developers, as vehicle access depends on Bay Bridge off ramps. Since the bridge currently operates at capacity, increased use of cars could create serious problems. Most speakers at the AIA conference opted for ferry service, envisioning a renaissance of water transit from both San Francisco and Oakland.

According to an AIA fact sheet, other problems facing developers include harsh winds, soil problems and heavy wave action on the western side, making this area unsuitable for waterfront development. And UC architect Peter Bosselman said that being on the island in late winter "is like floating in space."

Still Treasure Island has one of the Bay Area's most magnificent views, and a host of would-be occupants are eyeing the opportunities for creative reuse of the base. Meanwhile, President Clinton has promised to provide special funds to bolster reuse planning. The Mayor says he expects to receive at least \$3.5 million in conversion money. Stay tuned.

Awards

The Department of City Planning has been honored with the American Planning Association 1993 Award for its Environmental Impact Report on the Catellus Corporation's Mission Bay Project. Planner Diane Oshima, who accepted the commendation in Chicago last month, helped prepare the "reader friendly EIR summary of the highlights and main conclusions of the analysis."



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What's Cooking at the Library

by Gardner Haskell

Ever wonder how humans fed themselves before cookbooks were invented? of course there are only so many things one can do with haunch of woolly mammoth without a decent saute pan.

But then homo-sapiens discovered tables, plates, napkins, waiters. Suddenly food preparation became more varied, and recipes were written down—into books—cookbooks,

We have a great selection at the library, including the 'big' names like Beard, Child and Claiborne. But we have also books that take a different view of food preparation.

Fabulous Feats is filled with medieval cookery and costumes, And while it will show you how to make Nekkesan (swan neck pudding), more than half the book discusses how and why things were the way they were in days of yore.

Fast forward 500 years to *Microwave Gourmet* by Barbara Kafka and "learn to use your microwave oven to do everything you hoped it could and more..." Surely her "Eggs in Red Wine Sauce" recipe is on the cutting edge of microwavability.

You may not be travelling to Russia this year but you can take a cooking trip with *The Art of Russian Cuisine* by Anne Volokh and learn why it's a lot easier to buy piroshki than to make it. You'll also find out why it takes so long to make Chicken Pirog, with hints for 'assembling the kurnik.' It's not as easy as you might think to assemble a kurnik.

There are so many good Chinese cook books that it is unfair to just name a few, but operating under the adage that "Life is Not Fair," we will mention Maggie Gin's *Regional Cooking of China* because the recipes are quick, simple and easy to follow. The same is true of *In The Chinese Kitchen* with Shirley Fong Torres. Martin Yan's *Well Seasoned Wok* is jammed full of exciting Chinese creations such as "Snappy Stir Fry," and for those who recently misjudged the stock market, "Beggars Cornish Game Hen."

Wouldn't you like to know how Franco Montatello (Little Joe) makes "Little Joe's Mixed Vegetables?" or "Little Joe's Chicken Saute?" It's all there in *Little Joe's Italian Cookbook*.

The *Black Family Dinner Cook Book* not only includes "Geneva's Quick Gumbo," and "Louisiana Pepper Chicken," it also has a five page "History of Soul Food" section.

Moving South East, there is Rasamund Grant's *Caribbean and African Cooking* with a forward by Maya Angelou. Each section is preceded by a page of the author's personal history which makes this a good-read cook book.

Food From My Heart by Zarela Martinez "...describes the connection between ... food and culture..." in this personal narrative that includes a story with every recipe.

If you have a hankering for "Noodle Kugel" or just want 'to throw a "Latke Party," then Faye Levy's *International Jewish Cookbook* will be a big help.

Aung Aung Talk's *The Best of Burmese Cooking* simplifies exotic cooking. Every recipe is on one page. The author begins by listing the ingredients followed by a brief paragraph explaining what to do. The instructions for "Pazun Ahloo Hin" (Shrimp Curry with Potatoes) begins "In a bowl, place the shrimp, tumeric and salt. With your hands, mix the ingredients..."

If you want to know what's hot, you'll find yourself fascinated by Amal Naj's *Peppers*. Not really a cook book, but an easy to read sociological history of hot peppers. *Peppers* has chapters about the origin of tabasco sauce, what happens behind the scenes in the town of Hatch, New Mexico's chile capital, and why Zubin Mehta brings his own hot peppers to restaurants.

We could end with *Mrs. Fields Cookie Book: 100 Recipes from the Kitchen of Mrs. Fields*, but *The 27 Ingredient Chili Con Carne Murders* by Nancy Packard mysteriously appeared on our desk. Yes, the recipe for (poor) "Eugenia Potter's 27 Ingredient Chili Con Carne" is included.

Feast your eyes at the North Beach Library, and surely your palate will follow.

This cake got mixed reviews from the cookbook committee tasters. Some thought it too sweet and others liked it because it was low in fat and rich and moist in flavor. It helps me use up lemons from my tree and the plentiful Fall apples of this season. Maggie Baylis donated the recipe with these tips, "This cake is quick to make, is always very popular and it may be made the day before it is served."

Apple-Lemon Bundt Cake

by Rozell Overmire

APPLE-LEMON BUNDT CAKE

THE CAKE

1 cube butter or margarine, room temperature	1/8 tsp. salt
1 cup unflavored yogurt	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1-3/4 cup sugar	2 tsp. lemon rind, grated
2 eggs	1 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 1/2 cup unsifted flour	2 tart apples, cored, and chopped

Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, beating into mixture. Sift flour with soda, salt and add alternately with yogurt, mixing until well blended. Stir in apples, lemon juice and lemon rind.

Pour mixture into a greased and floured bundt pan. Bake in oven preheated to 375 degrees, 45-50 minutes or until food pick inserted in cake comes out clean. Remove from oven, let stand for five minutes, then turn out on wire rack before adding glaze.

THE GLAZE

1/4 cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed	1 Tbsp. water	1/2 c. sugar
---------------------------------------	---------------	--------------

Prepare glaze while cake is baking. In a small bowl combine ingredients; let stand, stirring occasionally. Place waxed paper or paper towel under cake to catch drips. Brush glaze with pastry brush over top and sides of hot cake until absorbed, and let cool completely before removing to cake plate. Just before serving, sift powdered sugar generously over cake.

THD RECIPE CARD

THD Social News

by Jarilyn Cerruti

Thanks to all of the
merchants/members, who
donated such wonderful
prizes to our annual Coit

Tower Picnic.

Julius' Castle

Tower Tours

Beach Blanket Babylon

Moose's Restaurant

Fior D'Italia Restaurant

Michelangelo Cafe

An American Romantic

New Pisa Restaurant

Capp's Corner

Caesar's Restaurant

Helmand Restaurant

Maykadeh Restaurant

Basque Hotel Restaurant

Calzone's Restaurant

Finocchio's Nightclub

Gold Spike Restaurant

The Stinking Rose

Restaurant

North Beach Pizza

Caffe Trieste

Abitare

Quantity Postcards

Bob Tibbits

Mo Ludan

Maria Pimentell

Stewart Bloom

Also, cheers go to San

Francisco Brewery and

Alan Paul, who so

generously donated his

portable bar and delicious

beer. Thanks, Alan!



THD Picnic champs at egg tossing Photo © 1993 Fred Papapietro

Eggs were tossed, hoops were whirled, words were written and scavengers were seen hunting at the Picnic -- but when the "dust settled" atop Telegraph Hill on September 12th, it was the South Side of the hill "Tug-of-Warrers" who had won. Could there be a secret to their success? The challenge still stands for next year, so let's get in shape, North Side!



THD Picnic raffle crew Photo © 1993 Charlie Farruggia



THD Picnic tug of war demons Photo © 1993 Charlie Farruggia

Symphony Night at Davies Hall was very well attended this year, with over seventy THD'ers present. September continued on its busy course with our General Membership Dinner at Fior D'Italia. Carole Migden, San Francisco Board Supervisor, was the featured speaker, and Kevin Shelly, San Francisco Board President, interjected his comments as well, in response to some pointed questions from the audience.

Continued on Page 30



LOUIS J. SILCOX

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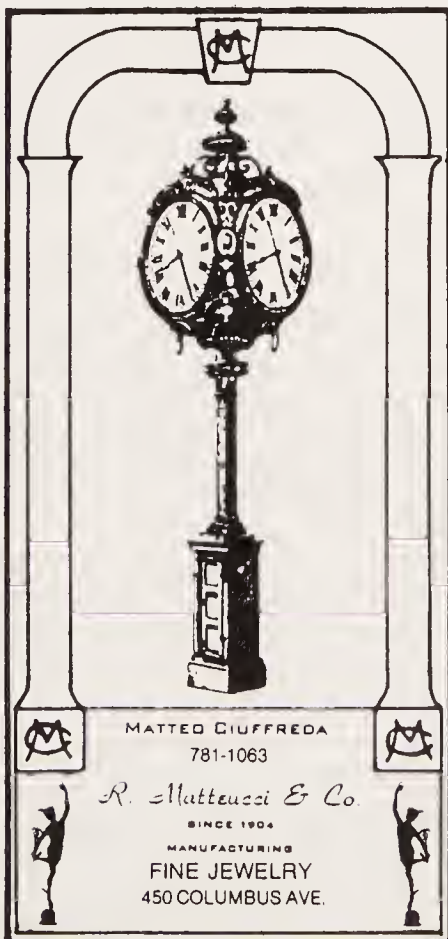
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History on the Hill

by Joe Luttrell
THD Historian

All the way up the Union Street hill, 15 feet around the corner at Speedy's Grocery, there lies a plaque, embedded in the ground in front of a tree.

Though the plaque survives, the tree has died; its replacement, soon to be planted, will kick off the Hill Dwellers' fortieth anniversary effort (marking its 1954 founding) to "Green the Hill". But who is this man, Silvio Catelli?

The commemorating plaque lies just outside the Historic District formed at the initiative of the Hill Dwellers in the mid-1980's, a District which includes the lower Greenwich and Filbert Steps, parts of Union and Montgomery streets, Calhoun Terrace, and most of lower Alta below Montgomery.

*Telegraph Hill Dwellers
in memory of
SILVIO L. CATELLI
1963
Trees for the City*

Silvio Catelli lived smack in the geographic middle of this District, in one of the District's most historic dwellings, at 31 Alta, just across the street from the famed Duck House (more about which in a few paragraphs), and it was there, in 1956, that he inaugurated his annual Peach Blossom Festival, celebrating the Spring budding of his back-yard's peach tree. Three years later, the Festival had gained sufficient notoriety to attract the mayor, and it continued annually thereafter into the 1960's, ceasing only with Sil's death in 1963.

31 Alta, where Sil lived, has a rich if irregular Hill history; it is largely now as it was in 1853 when it was built, its still eyecatching porch and general appearance just the same as in the 1870 photograph showing it dominating lower Alta which (mostly made up of vacant lots) then descended gradually downhill all the way to Battery street and the Bay. Nonetheless, Sil's ancestors were here before it was, his maternal grandfather, Giovanni Boitano, having pitched a tent on the Hill in 1851 before departing for the Gold Country.

Even before Sil, 31 Alta was not a tame place; in the '20's, Myrtokleia Sawvelle started the Telegraph Hill Tavern in its basement, distributing cards which announced "all the atmosphere of the Montmarte with a Marine View." Busted for selling bootleg liquor, she became the jailhouse cook before relocating to Carmel.

Three doors down from Sil, at 25 Alta, lived the Spediaccifamily (after whom "Speedy's" takes its name), yet another home still much as it appears in early photographs; and essentially across from both the much later arriving though equally (if not more) famous Duck House, with its miraculously preserved frescoes executed by Helen Forbes and Dorothy

Continued on Page 30



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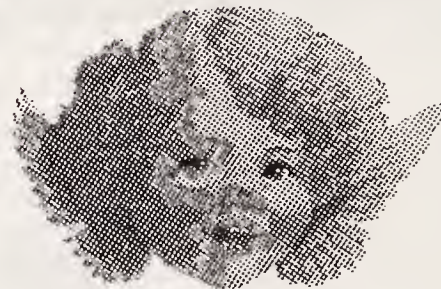
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History....

Continued from Page 28



Puccinelli in 1936. It is here, in the 70's, that Armisted Maupin began *Tales of the City*.

In 1959, Sil moved to 1256 Montgomery, just across the street from Speedy's and the plaque which honors him, and the Peach Blossom Festival moved with him. May I make a suggestion--when the new tree gets planted, shall we make it a peach?

[For those interested in reading further, the best book on the Hill is still David F. Myrick's *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill*, from which much of the information for this article has been taken; also very good is the portion devoted to Telegraph Hill in Don Herron's *The Literary World of San Francisco & Its Environs*].

Social News....

Continued from Page 26



Coming Up:

Sunday, December 12th, is our annual Holiday Party at Julius' Castle. As usual, the view will be magnificent and the food gourmet, so plan to be there to celebrate the season from 2 to 5 pm.

On the social committee's agenda for the start of the New Year is a North Beach author's book-signing and cocktail party. This is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 13th. We are coordinating this as a joint effort with the North Beach Chamber of Commerce to tie in with the "I Love North Beach" theme. We'd like to help put North Beach back on the map as a place where writers get their inspiration.

Also, our general membership dinner, with the Mayor as our featured speaker, is planned for early March.

Hope to see you at all or several of these events. Call if you have comments or suggestions. Jarilyn Cerruti -- 421 3820.

Telegraph Hill Treasures

"Telegraph Hill Treasures" is only one of the wonderful San Francisco-inspired greeting cards created by artists in Hospitality House's community arts program.

The silkscreened cards, 25 designs in all, are available at Hospitality House's shop on the lower level at Crocker Galleria, 50 Post Street, along with pottery, sculpture and paintings by low income and homeless artists. A good place to get into the holiday spirit!

Hospitality House provides shelter, crisis intervention and services, and counseling and job placement assistance for homeless youth and adults in the Tenderloin, in addition to the arts program. Sales at the shop benefit the individual artist as well as those who print, distribute and sell.





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Membership Report

by Bob Ilse

We have just finished our fall membership drive and we have over 60 new members. Welcome new members! The Telegraph Hill Dwellers now have a membership in excess of 700 members and growing. We encourage anyone who lives on the hill or who is a friend of the hill to join and take part. Current members may have new neighbors or friends who are interested, so please pass on the word. Once a member, we encourage everyone to take part in one or more committees (please see a list of committee chairs in the *Semaphore* and give them a call).

The committees are where the real action and events are happening. There is something for everyone and many require a very small amount of time. For those of you who are new to the hill, taking part in a committee is a great way to meet your neighbors as well take part in making this area better than it already is.

With the Christmas season approaching, why not a gift membership for a friend or loved one? Membership is still just \$15.00 (\$30.00 per couple) which is a bargain by today's standards. And it is a gift that will be remembered year-round! Please fill out the application below and forward it in with membership dues, and your special someone will get a Christmas surprise!

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Location of Property _____

☐ New Member ☐ Friend of THD (Neither resident or owner)

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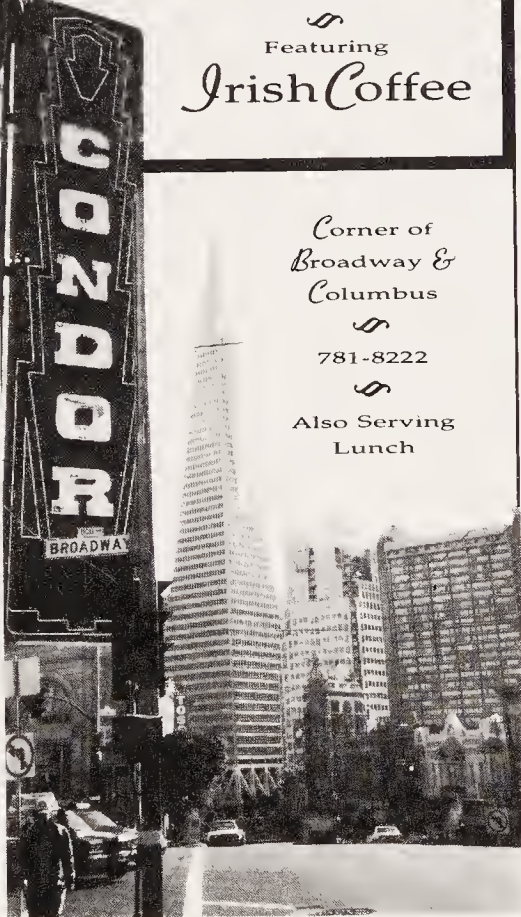
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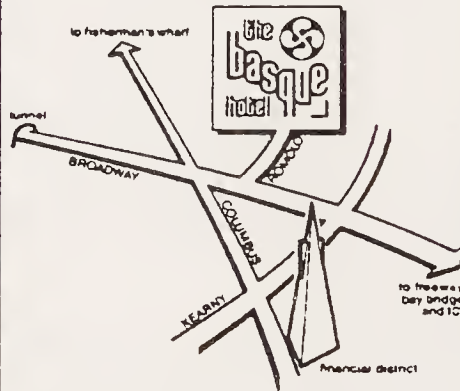


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St. Francis Church as a National Shrine


by Patricia Cady

A committee of North Beach parishioners is proposing naming the church at Columbus Avenue and Vallejo Street, a National Shrine honoring St. Francis of Assisi. The church is now only open on a one-Mass-per-day schedule and the Archdiocese intends to shut it down in June.

St. Francis is an unreinforced masonry building and must be brought to UMB code though it sustained relatively slight Loma Prieta damage. The Archdiocese says it cannot afford the repair, parishioners must raise the funds themselves though they were not permitted to raise repair funds until the archdiocese's Pastoral Planning Commission concluded its year-long deliberations on November 14.



They are making this proposal because the archdiocese does acknowledge St. Francis' historic value, and there is the opportunity to let it generate significant income in an appropriate manner as a practical alternative to closure, or loss, of this North Beach landmark.



Our City's namesake is already a landmark. St. Francis of Assisi Church, is the first parish church in the State of California, existing since 1849, a year before California became a state. But, National Shrines are magnets to international Catholics. They are very profitable enterprises which exist throughout the world. In this country, none exists for everyone's favorite saint, and the parishioners feel a shrine would attract its fair share of the tourists who walk past this gateway into North Beach everyday.

Currently the Archdiocese is free to file for permits to demolish unrepaired masonry churches next August.

To answer the one-year moratorium on landmarking churches, Supervisor Alioto has proposed a moratorium on demolishing churches, which will be assigned to a Board of Supervisors committee for review in December. Also pending is proposed state legislation (AB #133) to permanently prohibit landmarking them, and to abolish existing local laws which protect already landmarked churches.

Supervisors Alioto, Shelley and Bierman recently sponsored a resolution to lobby Sacramento against stripping San Francisco of its long-standing regulatory authority. Bierman observed that since economies ebb and flow, it's unwise to allow destruction of the City's cultural and artistic history to satisfy an immediate financial need.

In his lifetime, Francis of Assisi was a prolific builder of new churches. He exhorted, "Dare to Dream," which remains good advice after almost seven centuries.



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THD CALENDAR

Holiday Party at Julius' Castle, Sunday, December 12th, 2 pm.
Parking meeting Saturday, January 15, 1994 11:00 am
Police Community Relations evening meeting January 20, 1994,
7:30 pm
North Beach author's book-signing and cocktail party. Tentatively
Sunday, February 13th.
General membership dinner,. with the Mayor, early March.

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